

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 (ISO) W
----- 130881

R 111500Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7692

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RO

SUBJECT: BODNARAS 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED

1. 70TH BIRTHDAY OF PARTY PERMANENT PRESIDUM MEMBER EMIL BODNARAS WAS MARKED FEBRUARY 9 BY PRESENTATION BY CEAUSESCU OF "LETTER" FROM PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL OF STATE, AND BY "COMRADELY LUNCHEON" ATTENDED BY ALL PRESIDUM MEMBERS EXCEPT PREMIER MAURER AND SOME EXCO MEMBERS.
2. ALTHOUGH BODNARAS DID NOT RECEIVE ORDER OF "HERO OF SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA" AS DID PREMIER MAURER ON HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY IN SEPTEMBER 1972, CEREMONIES OTHERWISE GENERALLY REFLECTED BODNARAS'S STATUS AS ELDER PARTY STATESMAN AND HIS GOOD RELATIONS WITH CEAUSESCU. ELENA CEAUSESCU WAS PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN MEDIA COVERAGE OF FESTIVITIES.
3. IN HIS PUBLISHED LUNCHEON TOAST, BODNARAS ALLUDED TO "WE THE OLDEST MEMBERS OF LEADERSHIP COLLECTIVE" WHO WOULD BE GIVING WAY TO "SUCCESSORS" AND "NEXT GENERATION." THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC HINT WE HAVE SEEN THAT BODNARAS AND PERHAPS MAURER MAY CHOOSE PARTY CONGRESS YEAR 1974 TO STEP DOWN.
4. IN SAME CONNECTION, CEAUSESCU HAS PRIVATELY CONFIRMED TO WESTERN AMBASSADOR THAT RATHER SERIOUS BUT UNSPECIFIED HEALTH

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PROBLEM IS REASON FOR MAURER'S VIRTUAL DISAPPEARANCE FROM

LEADERSHIP ACITIVIES IN RECENT WEEKS.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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